

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

As a customer of DIRECTV, I am writing to urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me local TV channels via satellite in my market area, which I currently do not receive.

I currently have broadband access to the Internet, but would love to have a feasible alternative to PacBel/SBC. The combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will result in increased competition in the broadband market by providing an affordable high-speed Internet service nationwide via satellite. I believe we will all see the benefits.

Right now we are facing a sliding stock and technology market. When technology consumption is up, the benefits trickle down to all sectors of our economy. I encourage you to do your part to encourage the aggressive pursuit of doing better business. I believe hampering this effort would be a mistake.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Michael Fleming  
1787 Quaker St.  
Eureka, CA 95501